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Letter dated 14 April 2005 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

I write with reference to my predecessor's letter of 7 November 2002 (S/2002/1228). The Counter-Terrorism Committee has received the attached second report from Ghana submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001) (see annex). I would be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ellen Margrethe **Løj**
Chairman
Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution
1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

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Annex

Note verbale dated 6 October 2004 from the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Ghana to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chairman of the Committee and has the honour to forward, herewith, a second report on activities by the Government of Ghana in compliance with resolution 1373 (2001) (see enclosure).

Enclosure

Second report to the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council established pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001)

Ghana

In line with its national aspiration of peaceful co-existence and its United Nations Charter obligations, Ghana condemns all forms of terrorist activities wherever they occur and has been willing to co-operate internationally to prevent and combat the threat, for the purpose of achieving international peace and security.

This commitment of the Ghana Government is evidenced by the practical measures the country has taken in recent times on the domestic, regional and international front, in conformity with Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) of 28th September, 2001, as follows:

International Agreements

The Parliament of Ghana has ratified very significant international conventions on combating terrorism, namely:

- The International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism;
- The International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings; and
- The Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism.

Also, Ghana, as a Member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Commonwealth, has subscribed to the strong anti-terrorism Declarations made by those two bodies.

National Commission on Small Arms

In respect of the ECOWAS Moratorium on the Proliferation of Small Arms and Ammunition and Light Weapons, the Government of Ghana, with the support of the UNDP, has set up a National Commission on Small Arms. This Commission is involved in monitoring cross border activities for the purpose of counteracting the proliferation of small arms within the sub-region. Several networking meetings of the National Commission within ECOWAS have taken place already aimed at fostering cooperation and enhancing the sharing of information.

Bilateral Agreements

It is acknowledged that the fight against terrorism is far beyond the capabilities of any single nation. For this reason, the Government of Ghana has demonstrated its preparedness to forge bilateral agreement with any country, within the framework of the UN Resolutions, for the purpose of combating global terrorism.

National Laws

In acceding to the above listed International (UN) Conventions on Terrorism, the Government of Ghana has borne the obligation to review the nation's local laws and establish criminal offences (i.e. amend Criminal Code) for terrorist acts and make such acts punishable.

The Ministry of Justice is working on the Bill on Terrorism which would include issues on definition, jurisdiction, penalties, financing of terrorism, money laundering, extradition, among others.

Also, the Bank of Ghana is currently preparing an Anti-Money Laundering Bill to be submitted to Parliament in due course for consideration.

Practical Measures

In conformity with the UN Security Council Resolution 1373 of September, 2001, there is now established under the National Security Council a Counter-Terrorism Operations Unit, which has the mandate for counter-terrorism intelligence gathering and operations.

Additionally, other State Security/Intelligence Agencies have reviewed their mandates, granting significant attention to anti-terrorism and related concerns.

The capabilities of Border Authorities, the Immigration and Customs Services, are also being upgraded so as to track down terrorists and other criminals who may attempt to cross national frontiers using falsified documents or with dangerous materials. To this end, the Government has received international support for the installation of a computerized (electronic) system at the national airport and other land frontiers, known as PISCES – Personal Identification Secure Comparison and Evaluation System. This equipment has components that facilitate passenger data processing and identifying Watch-listed persons.